GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4918
ANSWERED ON:23.05.2006
HIV POSITIVE OF SEX WORKER
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sex workers having HIV positive as on date;

(b) whether the Government proposes to address the health and social problems of sex workers and protection of their human rights through any legislation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a) As per information received from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare the HIV Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) 2005 shows that there are estimated 0.1 million Female Sex Workers having HIV infection.

(b)&(c) Under the National AIDS control Programme phase − II, presently 181 Targeted Intervention projects are exclusively being implemented among Sex Workers through NGOs for containing the spread of HIV. In addition to this 320 Composite Targeted Interventions are also providing services to sex workers. Targeted Interventions focus on bringing desired behaviour change from high risk to low & no risk (safer) practices and provide holistic package of services including behaviour change communication, condom promotion, treatment for sexually transmitted infections and creation of enabling environment.

The Ministry of WCD runs Swadhar shelter Home wherein sex workers are provided shelter, food, clothing, emotional support, counseling, rehabilitation and other facilities. A pilot project on combating trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation is being implemented in source, destination and traditional areas of prostitution. The proposed amendments in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act have specific provision for protection of human rights of sex workers.